PATENT APPLICATION DOCKET NO.: 200208842-1

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

system and method for providing interface compatibility between two hierarchical collections integrated circuit (IC) design objects. Upon establishing an associative correspondence between a design object from a first hierarchical collection and a design object from a second hierarchical collection, a port compatibility map is on based determination generated that a particular associative correspondence includes a pair of design objects, one from each hierarchical collection, that are portcompatible. Thereafter, the port compatibility map is reduced to determine a set of design object pairs that allow interface-compatible replaceability between the first and second hierarchical collections.